

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGEN- CY ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Minority Business Development Agency on this its 45th Anniversary. Established in 1969, the MBDA has worked tirelessly and diligently to promote the growth and global competitiveness of a critical segment of the U.S. Economy, the minority business community.

Why is this important? Well Mr. Speaker it is important because investing in contracts, capital and counseling for our minority owned businesses will yield significant results for minority communities. If we help our minority businesses help themselves, their success will bring sustainable economic growth and trans-generational wealth creation that will transform many of our hardest hit areas.

At the time of the Agency's creation there were only 322,000 minority-owned firms in the nation. Today, that number stands at 5.8 million firms contributing \$1 trillion towards our nation's economy. MBDA has been a significant part of this impressive growth story. Over the last five years in particular, MBDA has helped firms gain access to over \$19 billion in contracts and capital resulting in the creation and retention of nearly 60,000 jobs. These are great numbers, Mr. Speaker and we have to thank the MBDA and its team for their efforts. But we have more work to do.

I thank MBDA for all it has accomplished over the last 45 years. In the coming years, the growth of America's workforce will come from partnerships between the public and private sector. MBDA serves as a bridge connecting government and private resources to leverage existing competencies in service to the growth of the minority business sector. I applaud MBDA's mission and will continue to support it in the decades ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Orlando Museum of Art. Since its founding, the Museum has remained committed to enriching the cultural life of Florida and developing inclusive programs that serve every segment of a diverse community.

In 1924, the Orlando Museum of Art began as a small group of artists who met informally to display and discuss their work. They formed the Orlando Art Association, teaching art

classes and arranging exhibits. In 1987, the name was officially changed to the Orlando Museum of Art, and within two years, it was acclaimed as one of the best in the region. The Museum features a dynamic set of collections ranging from contemporary art to Golden Age masterpieces and has hosted various high-profile exhibits.

The Museum has maintained its national accredited status by the American Association of Museums without interruption for over 40 years and continues to provide excellence in the visual arts. I thank the Orlando Museum of Art for its ongoing dedication to advancing the arts in our community.

H. STEVEN SMEDLEY, WEST HAN- OVER TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor H. Steven Smedley, a member of West Hanover Township Fire Company No. 1 and the recipient of the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Smedley joined the West Hanover Twp. Fire Co. No. 1 on November 4, 1980 and quickly developed a passion for the fire service. In the 33 years he has been with the Fire Company, he has taken on many important leadership roles including 1st and 2nd Lieutenant; 1st and 2nd Captain; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Assistant Chief; and Deputy Chief. Additionally, he has served as Recording Secretary, Vice President, President and Trustee and fulfilled the duties of an Apparatus Truck Foreman and Chief Engineer for the organization. Outside the fire company, Mr. Smedley has been active in the Dauphin County Fireman's Association, Dauphin County Fire Chief's Association, and the Dauphin County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Mr. Speaker, for 33 years H. Steven Smedley has devoted his life to West Hanover Township Fire Company No. 1. Therefore, I commend him for his hard work and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the House Budget Committee and someone who supported the original Biggert-Waters flood insurance reauthorization, I am keenly aware of the need for re-

form in this area. The federal flood insurance program is \$24 billion in debt, and its below-market rates encourage development in environmentally sensitive and flood prone areas.

Having said that, it has also become abundantly clear that the transition to market-based rates under the original Biggert-Waters bill has been unduly onerous for many homeowners, and the pace of that transition is in need of adjustment.

Today's bipartisan compromise attempts to provide that adjustment in the form of greater predictability around rate increases for covered properties, paid for with a surcharge on all policyholders. While there were certainly other ways to address this issue, and I could have supported more reform than appears in this particular bill, I will vote for tonight's compromise in order to move this program forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes No. 91 and 92.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 91, I would have voted "aye" (March 4) (H.R. 3370, Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Rep. GRIMM—Financial Services)); On rollcall No. 92, I would have voted "aye" (March 4) (H. Res. 488, Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence (Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN—Foreign Affairs)).

JAYSON TERDIMAN, 2014 U.S. OLYMPIC LUGE TEAM

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jayson Terdiman of Berwick, Pennsylvania who represented the United States in the men's doubles and team relay luge competitions in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Since the age of five, Jayson has been an active member of Berwick's athletic community, playing basketball, hockey, and baseball and running cross-country. He continued to pursue many of these activities during his time at Berwick High School, eventually graduating in 2007 with distinguished honors.

Despite his other athletic commitments, Jayson got his start in luge early, becoming a member of the USA Luge Development Team

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